

Message Text

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AMEMBSSY PARIS

AMEMBSSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5298

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: GDR MEDIA: A TIME FOR MILITARY CELEBRATIONS

1. GDR PRESS OVER THE WEEKEND ON FEB 21 CELEBRATED THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST GERMAN ARMY(NATIONALE VOLKSARMEE-NVA) WITH PROMINENT COVERAGE OF AN AWARDS AND PROMOTION CEREMONY HELD IN THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUILDING. FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER CONVEYED THE AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS OF NVA GENERALS AND COLONELS. A NEW MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICES WAS ANNOUNCED AND BESTOWED ON SEVERAL MILITARY PERSONNEL OF ALL RANKS. AN INSIDE PAGE OF THE PARTY DAILY NEUES DEUTSCHLAND WAS GIVEN OVER TO "MILITARY POLICY", PROCLAIMING MASTERY OF THE MILITARY ARTS UNDER
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THE SED LEADERSHIP.

2. COMMEMORATING THE 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET ARMY THE GDR PRESS ON FEBRUARY 2E CARRIED ON PAGE ONE A CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM FROM THE GDR LEADERSHIP TO THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. AFTER RECOUNTING THE RED ARMY'S GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS, THE TELEGRAM CONFIRMED THAT THE GDR- SOVIET TREATY OF OCTOBER , 1975 " CEMENTS FOREVER" THE UNITY AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES AND STATES. A LONG INSIDE ARTICLE BY SOVIET ARMY GENERAL YEVGENIY IVANOVSKI, COMMANDER OF THE SOVIET FORCES IN EAST GERMANY, WENT INTO FURTHER DETAILS OF PAST GLORIES AND CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS, AND PROMISED ETERNAL VIGILANCE.

3. COMMENT: MILITARY THEMES HAVE RECEIVED INCREAS-
INGLY PROMINENT COVERAGE IN GDR MEDIA OF LATE, MOST
NOTICEABLY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE HELSINKI
CONFERENCE LAST SEPTEMBER. IN RECENT WEEKS THE GDR
HAS ALSO CELEBRATED WITH WIDE PUBLICITY THE 26TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE SECURITY
FORCES (MFS). PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS WERE ANNOUNCED
TOGETHER WITH THE UNVEILING OF STILL MORE NEW MEDALS
TO BE EARNED BY MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY-SECURITY FORCES.
WHETHER THIS HIGHER PUBLIC VISIBILITY INDICATES A
MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE FOR THE MILITARY /SECURITY APPARATUS
WITHIN THE GDR HIERARCHY IS NOT YET CLEAR.

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